

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SS-15 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 /048 W

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O R 271720Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3643

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - GOP SENDS TEAM TO U.S.

REF: LIMA 0668

1. "OFFICIAL COMMISSION" HEADED BY AEROPERU EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT GENERAL (R) CARLOS SOTO VERA AND INCLUDING AEROPERU LAWYER GULMAN LEFT LIMA NIGHT OF JANUARY 26 TO TRAVEL TO U.S. TO CONDUCT FURTHER CIVAIR CONVERSATIONS. "EXPRESO" SAID TEAM WOULD GO FIRST TO LOS ANGELES AND THEN TO WASHINGTON AND THAT "IN THE WORK AGENDA, A NUMBER OF MEETINGS ARE PLANNED WITH OFFICIALS OF (U.S.) AGENCIES CONTROLLING AND REGULATING AIR TRAFFIC."

2. ACCORDING TO "EL COMERCIO", ON HIS DEPARTURE GENERAL SOTO COMMENTED TO REPORTERS THAT HE WOULD MEET WITH PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR BERCKEMEYER WITH THE END IN VIEW THAT CIVAIR PROBLEM MIGHT BE SOLVED AT "GOVERNMENT LEVEL." ELABORATING, HE SAID THAT AFTER TALKS BETWEEN TWO AIRLINES FAILED, CONVERSATIONS WERE HELD (UNSUCCESSFULLY) AT THE "LEVEL OF AUTHORITIES", AND THAT THE NEXT AND LAST STEP IS THE "GOVERNMENT LEVEL" TO WHICH SOTO WILL SEEK TO BRING THE PROBLEM VIA THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. ACCOUNT QUOTES SOTO TO EFFECT THAT

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"WE BELIEVE A FAVORABLE SOLUTION WILL BE ACHIEVED CONSIS-

TENT WITH PERUVIAN CRITERIA." WITH RESPECT TO AEROPERU'S MEETINGS WITH OTHER L.A. AIRLINES, SOTO SAID THAT A POSSIBLE SUSPENSION OF BRANIFF'S SERVICES WOULD CAUSE MANY AIR TRANSPORT PROBLEMS FOR THE CONTINENT BECAUSE IT WOULD CREATE CONGESTION ON OTHER LATIN AMERICAN AIRLINES. AEROPERU HAD CONTACTED THESE AIRLINES WHICH LAND IN LIMA SO THEY WOULD NOT SUFFER ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES.

3. AEROPERU HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT SOTO HAS LEFT FOR U.S. AND IS EXPECTED TO RETURN ON JANUARY 29 OR 30. NEITHER AEROPERU NOR DGTA HAS INFORMED US OF PRECISE PURPOSE OF TRIP NOR WHOM SOTO EXPECTS TO SEE.

4. WEEKEND PRESS CONTINUED HIGHLY CRITICAL OF U.S./BRANIFF POSITION, ALTHOUGH TREATMENT WAS LESS EXTENSIVE. MOST HARD-HITTING WAS EDITORIAL IN GOP-OWNED "LA CRONICA" WHICH MAINTAINED INTER ALIA THAT, WHILE BRANIFF HAS 34 WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO LIMA, AEROPERU "COULD ONLY" FLY 7 TIMES PER WEEK TO MIAMI. EDITORIAL ALSO REITERATED THREAT OF AIR MINISTER GILARDI THAT IF U.S. REACTED BY RESTRICTING AEROPERU, NO OTHER U.S. COMMERCIAL CARRIER WOULD BE PERMITTED TO FLY TO PERU. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED, "IT IS NEVERTHELESS DESIREABLE THAT BRANIFF AIRWAYS, INC. SHOULD RECOVER ITS COMPOSURE AND UNDERSTAND THAT WHILE PERU AND ITS SOVEREIGN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT DO NOT WISH TO INTERRUPT THEIR COMMERCIAL AIR LINKS WITH THE UNITED STATES, NEITHER CAN THEY TOLERATE EXTORTIONIST LANGUAGE AND ABUSE, AND THAT THE ONLY WAY OF REACHING AGREEMENT WITH OUR COUNTRY IS IN TERMS OF JUSTICE FOR BOTH COUNTRIES." BARNEBEY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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